

UNITEDSTATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT **FORM X-17A-5** 

## OMB APPROVAL

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## PART III

FACING PAGE Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

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\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See Section 240.17a-5(e)(2)

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## Forward Securities, LLC

Statement of Financial Condition December 31, 2012

(Public)



**SEC** Mail Processing Section MAR 1 - 2013 Washington DC 400

# Forward Securities, LLC Statement of Financial Condition

**December 31, 2012** 

(Public)



#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the member of Forward Securities, LLC:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Forward Securities LLC as of December 31, 2012.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Statement of Financial Condition

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the statement of financial condition in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the statement of financial condition that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statement of financial condition based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of financial condition is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement of financial. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement of financial condition, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the statement of financial condition in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the statement of financial condition. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of financial condition presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Forward Securities LLC at December 31, 2012, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



#### Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 3 to the financial statements, the Company has extensive transactions and relationships with affiliates.

San Francisco, CA February 22, 2013

Price waterhoweloopers LLP

### Forward Securities, LLC Statement of Financial Condition Year Ended December 31, 2012

Assets Cash and cash equivalents Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$	309,571 18,427
Total assets		327,998
Liabilities and Member's Equity Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Payable to affiliate Total liabilities		159,078 21,962 181,040
Member's equity Contributions, net Accumulated deficit Total member's equity	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	450,000 (303,042) 146,958
Total liabilities and member's equity	\$	327,998

#### Forward Securities, LLC Notes to Statement of Financial Condition December 31, 2012

#### 1. Organization

Forward Securities, LLC (the "Company") was organized on August 11, 2006 under the laws of Delaware. The Company is registered with the SEC as a broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). The Company is wholly owned by Forward Management, LLC ("Management"), a registered investment advisor with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Management acts as investment advisor and provides other business-related services to Forward Funds, a Delaware statutory trust, (the "Funds") and other investment products. Forward Funds is an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

The Company was approved by FINRA to operate as a limited purpose broker-dealer that does not engage in proprietary trading, market-making, exchange floor activity, securities clearing or underwriting. The Company's sole function will be to market and distribute the Funds throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam. From April 15, 2012, the Company operates as the Funds' principal distributor. The Company has entered into distribution agreements with other brokers for the purpose of distributing the Funds' shares.

The Company does not carry customer accounts and does not otherwise hold funds or securities for, or owe money or securities to, customers and, accordingly, claims exemption from Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") under paragraph (k)(2)(i) of that Rule.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America using the accrual method of accounting.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Company's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and money market accounts. The Company's cash and cash equivalents are on deposit with major U.S. banking institutions. Such deposits normally are in excess of federally insured limits.

#### **Distribution Fees**

The 12b-1 distribution fee collected from the Funds flow through the Company to the intermediary broker-dealer holding the customer accounts that are under selling agreements to receive such fees. Since the Company does not have credit risk and is not involved in distribution of Funds' securities, the Company does not record any revenue related to the distribution agreement. The total amount of distribution fees flowing through the Company was \$5,432,734 for the year ended December 31, 2012.

#### Forward Securities, LLC Notes to Statement of Financial Condition December 31, 2012

#### **Fair Value Measurements**

The Company's financial instruments consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities, which are recorded at amounts that approximate fair value due to their liquid or short-term nature.

#### **Income Taxes**

As a limited liability company, the Company is not subject to income taxes. Tax liabilities are instead paid by individual members of the limited liability company. Income and losses are included in the tax returns of the individual members or partners. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes is included in the accompanying financial statements.

As a pass-through entity for tax purposes, the Company has minimal exposure to uncertain tax positions, limited to whether the Company is taxable in a particular jurisdiction. Management has evaluated the Company's exposure and has determined there are no uncertain tax positions where the Company's liability is probable and reasonably estimable, and therefore, no liabilities have been accrued at December 31, 2012.

#### Member's Equity and Limited Liability Company Agreement

The Company's operating agreement sets forth the respective rights and obligations of the sole member and provides for terms of its management and conduct of its affairs. The Company's Management Board is responsible for the management affairs of the entity.

#### 3. Related Parties

The Company entered into an Administrative Services Agreement with Management whereby, Management provides certain administrative and other services to the Company for a monthly fee determined annually. The Company does not have its own employees. Periodically, the Company and Management review the monthly fee calculation to ensure the fee is commiserate with the level of services provided, including time worked by allocated Management employees. The Company expensed \$130,000 under this agreement for the year ended December 31, 2012.

During 2012, the Company entered into a Shareholder Servicing Agreement with Management whereby, Management performs certain services for the Funds. The fee paid to Management shall not exceed on an annual basis 0.10% on certain Institutional Class shares of the Funds. The total amount of fees paid to Management was \$17,871.

Underwriting concessions received by the Company are periodically reimbursed to Management as all distribution-related expenditures are incurred by Management. The total amount of underwriting concessions reimbursed to Management was \$145,771.

Additionally, Management invoices the Company monthly for any direct expenses paid on behalf of the Company. The total amount of direct expenses reimbursed to Management was \$2,043.

The payable to affiliate represents the administrative service fee and any expenses to be reimbursed by the Company to Management. The fees and expenses may not represent the actual cost and expenses incurred by the Company if operated on a stand alone basis.

#### Forward Securities, LLC Notes to Statement of Financial Condition December 31, 2012

#### 4. Regulatory Requirements

The Company is subject to the SEC's Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1. As of December 31, 2012, the Company is required to maintain minimum net capital equal to the greater of \$5,000 or 6<sup>2/3</sup>% of aggregate indebtedness, as defined.

At December 31, 2012, the Company had net capital, as defined under Rule 15c3-1, of \$128,531 and excess net capital of \$116,462. The ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 1.41 to 1.

The Company claims exemption from the provisions of Rule 15c3-3 under the Act in that the Company's activities are limited to those set forth in the conditions for exemption in accordance with paragraph (k)(1)(i) of that rule.

#### 5. Subsequent Events

The Company has reviewed subsequent events occurring through February 22, 2013, which represents the date that these financial statements were available to be issued and determined that no additional subsequent events occurred that would require accrual or additional disclosure.



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